

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes which label Figures 13-15 as “PRIOR ART.” This sheet, which includes Figs. 13-15, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 13-15.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 remain active in the application.

Claims 3-5 have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the prior art.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Parsons for the courtesy of an interview on February 24, 2004, at which time the outstanding rejection was discussed. In particular, Applicants pointed out that the admitted prior art does not teach a thermoelectric module including a first substrate having at least two protrusions that protrude toward opposite sides in a right angle projection of the second substrate onto the first substrate. For example, in the non-limiting embodiment shown in Figure 1, wherein the second substrate 12 is projected at a right angle onto the first substrate 11, the first substrate includes two protrusions 11a that protrude toward opposite sides. In contrast, the admitted prior art (Figure 14) has only a single protrusion 2a. Providing two opposite protrusions in accordance with the present invention provides more even stress distribution and other advantages as set forth in the specification. It was therefore agreed that the claims (which include a minor amendment for clarity) define over the prior art.

As was also discussed during the interview, the claims are believed to be definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and so the rejection of paragraph 6 is also believed to be moot.

The specification has been revised to incorporate the changes required in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Concerning paragraph 2 of the Office Action, on the other hand, the specification has also been amended to delete the double utilization of the reference character 1 and the designation “1A”. Regarding paragraph 4, Applicants are proposing drawing changes which label Figures 13-15 as “PRIOR ART.”

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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